from abroad or by resort to substitutes. The production of synthetic grains is being investigated and Government propose to take the initiative in this matter.

IRRIGATION

5. The three major irrigation schemes under execution, the Peechi, Chalakudi and Perinchani schemes, estimated to benefit a total area of over one lakh of acres are making satisfactory progress. A new scheme, the Vazhani scheme, intended to benefit about 11,000 acres, has also been taken up, while investigation is in progress of the Neyyar Irrigation scheme, which will enable an additional area of about 15,000 acres to be brought under the plough. The investigation of the Vembanad Lake scheme, including the construction of the Thannirmukkom bund and the Thottappally spill-way, has almost been completed. This scheme will protect about 1¼ lakhs of acres of land in Kuttanad from floods and sea-water, besides enabling the conversion of 45,000 acres of single crop lands into double crop. Minor irrigation has also been receiving the careful attention of my Government. The various lift irrigation schemes, schemes for construction of earthen dams, restoration of tanks, and opening of irrigation channels, are making very good progress.

AGRICULTURE

6. Owing to the intensive propaganda carried on by the Department of Agriculture, the use of scientific manures and improved strains of seeds has become a permanent feature of agriculture in the country. 2½ lakhs of acres of land in the important paddy growing areas of the State have been selected for intensive manuring, and 11,000 tons of manures supplied. The area under improved strains of paddy seeds has risen to 1,25,000 acres. Fifty-thousand acres of unreclaimed waste lands in the Kari area will be treated with scientific manures and it is expected that the whole area will be brought under paddy in the ensuing year. Arrangements are also being made for the supply of manures for tapioca cultivation.

7. The supply of electric power for de-watering punja lands is being rapidly expanded. It is the aim of my Government to supply cheap power as much as possible to aid cultivation. 30,000 acres of punja lands are at present under de-watering by electric power.

EDUCATION

8. My Government are spending about 25 per cent of the State's Revenues on education. The scheme of compulsory primary education is at present being worked in nine taluks of the State. Investigations are being made with a view to bringing two more taluks within the scheme in the next academic year.

9. My Government recognise the services rendered by private agencies to the development of education in this country from the primary to the highest stages. My Government are averse to interfering with the autonomy of private educational institutions except to the extent that is absolutely necessary to ensure their efficient administration.

10. There is a basic education training centre at Cherpu and Government is giving grant to two basic educational institutions. It is my Government's intention to establish departmental basic schools in the State as early as possible. A committee has been appointed to draw up schemes for the expansion and development of adult education and an adult education centre has been opened in Trivandrum.

INDUSTRIES

11. My Government have been pursuing a steady programme for developing indigenous industries. The mineral sands in the State are State property, and it is

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the intention of my Government that the entire mineral sand industry should as far as possible be owned and managed by the State. The existing private mineral concerns will on this basis be progressively brought under State ownership. Arrangements are well under way for the establishment of the Monazite Factory at Alwaye, which is jointly owned by my Government and the Central Government. The shyness of private capital is proving a great handicap to initiation of new industries. My Government are therefore making substantial contributions to the share-capital of deserving private industrial concerns. They are also providing financial accommodation by way of loans, wherever necessary and possible, to private concerns engaged in the production of essential commodities.

12. The Cottage Industries Committee constituted to report upon the possibilities of developing the cottage industries of the State has forwarded an interim report. My Government are examining the committee's proposals. It is their intention to implement the proposals as far as practicable and with the least possible delay. My Government are also paying due attention to the development of industrial research. Shark Liver Oil is to be produced on a commercial scale and a Board of Management has been constituted. Research in Tapioca is to be developed—in stations to be opened in Thiruvalla and Mulloorkara. The distillation of essential oils from indigenous raw materials like lemon grass, for which there is great demand in the world market, has already engaged my Government's attention. A pilot plant will soon be installed for operation of a scheme which they have under consideration.

ELECTRICITY

13. The supply of cheap power is one of the essential conditions for the industrial development of any country. My Government have under execution three major hydro-electrtc schemes—the Pallivasal hydro-electric project, the Sengulam hydro-electric project, and the Poringalkuthu hydro-electric project. Progress on all these works is being steadily maintained. A capital expenditure of Rs. 175 lakhs is anticipated on the entire power system during the current year and the total capital outlay on the works by the end of the year will be about Rs. 970 lakhs.

COMMUNICATIONS

14. My Government have been making liberal grants for the improvement of the State's road system. The main highways are being provided with special dustless surfacing. This will be facilitated by contributions from the Municipalities and village organisations, the State Transport Department, and private bus and lorry operators.

15. The village and ryots roads which have come into existence in a haphazard manner will be brought into a well-planned development scheme. This scheme will be worked out on the basis of two five-year plans. A Village Road Development Fund has been created for this purpose.

16. A new major arterial road connecting Kumili with Devicolam will be opened for vehicular traffic in the ensuing year. Most of the work has already been completed. The road traverses the extensive cardamom areas of the High Range and opens up a vast area of cultivable land. It links up the two Hill stations of Munnar and Peermade, and is of the greatest importance for the economic development of the hitherto inaccessible regions of the High Range.

LAND POLICY

17. My Government have had under consideration for some time past the question of re-orientating the land policy of the State and the system of land tenures.

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